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Shahak warns Palestinian anger is rising

By LIAT COLLINS

Although the Palestinian Authority apparently wants to avoid an armed conflict with Israel, preferring to use its gains in the international arena, a feeling of hatred is returning to the Palestinian street, Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak told the Knesset Foreign and Defense Committee yesterday.

According to an official briefing, Shahak said, "The present situation cannot go on much longer," adding it could develop in one of two direc-

tions: violence or dialogue. He did not specify which is more likely. Some Palestinians are losing faith in the PA, Shahak said, and some are enriching only those close to it.

Shahak confirmed reports, raised by Ze'ev Begin (Likud), that some Fatah activists have joined the Islamic Jihad. He also confirmed reports that there are rocket-propelled grenades in the Gaza Strip.

He denied, however, stories that the IDF is confiscating arms from Jewish settlers.

The military is holding a campaign to register the location of its weapons, he explained, and all the arms taken were IDF - not private - property. Shahak said that after a check into

the matter, the weapons had been returned to most of the 31 people who appealed against their removal; most of those who did not get the weapons back have a criminal record.

Chairman Uzi Landau (Likud) stopped the heated discussion twice to allow MKs to cool off. Most of the confrontation took place between Yossi Sarid (Meretz) and Haim Ramon (Labor), on one side, and Begin, Hanan Porat (National Religious Party), and Shaul Yahalom (NRP) on the other.

The meeting had to be stopped in the

middle of discussions on the security of Jewish residents in Hebron. Shahak said the IDF is doing everything possible to ensure their safety. Porat and Yahalom said that, nonetheless, a child had been wounded in a stone-throwing incident.

"You're talking about a stone when there is a danger of nuclear weapons," Ramon interjected.

On Lebanon, a senior military intelligence officer said there has been a gradual return to the same scope of attacks by Hizbullah as there was six months ago - about 60 incidents a

month. Shahak stressed, however, that Hizbullah does not seem to want a flare up and is basically abiding by the understandings reached after Operation Grapes of Wrath.

Recent successful IDF initiatives have put pressure on Hizbullah, he continued.

The organization is continuing to receive arms by air from Iran via Syria.

He said there are also signs of cooperation between Hizbullah and Palestinian groups in south Lebanon.

beginning to perceive it as a body which exploits the population and

Netanyahu rejects US report on settlements

By MICHAL YUDELMAN and MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday rejected a US report, according to which 26 percent of the housing units in settlements in the West Bank and 56% in Gaza are unoccupied. Netanyahu said the real figures are a "tiny fraction" of that.

"I don't have the accurate figures at hand, but the report of 25% empty apartments is far from the truth," Netanyahu said.

He noted that Ariel, for example, which the report said had 2,000 empty homes, had not many more than 2,000 homes in it altogether, "and Ariel is not an abandoned settlement."

Salai Meridor, the head of the Jewish Agency's settlement department, said there are hardly any empty homes in the territories, and in most settlements there is not even one empty apartment.

"I wish that the reports were true," he said, "because then we would be able to fill them very quickly. The fact is that there are hardly any empty apartments in the territories. It is known that the population there has been growing at the rate of 10% a year, 50,000 over the past four years. We are confident that it will continue in this manner."

Peace Now spokesman Mosy Raz said that the figures his movement has are "somewhere in the middle" between those cited in the American report and the settlers' leaders' claim that there are hardly any empty apartments available.

He estimated some 12% of the housing units in the territories are empty.

He added that although his figures were lower than those in the survey, it strengthened the movement's demands that all construction in the settlements be halted.

US Consul-General in Jerusalem Edward Abington defended the report.

See REPORT, Page 2



Rare find
Prof. Stefan Reif, of Cambridge University, yesterday studies a letter, written by Moses Maimonides (Rambam) in the 12th century, that is to be part of a display of Cairo Geniza documents opening at the Israel Museum on June 2, 100 years after their discovery. (Brian Hestler)

PM, Levy deny deals over jobs

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

Ambassador to the US Eliahu Ben-Elissar, who arrived here yesterday, met with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu in a session that continued after midnight yesterday, amid persistent rumors that he is to be replaced.

Sources close to Foreign Minister David Levy said last night that as far as Levy is concerned, Ben-Elissar will be returning to Washington tomorrow and has a return flight ticket. The sources noted, however, that Netanyahu may have other offers for him.

Netanyahu's political adviser Dr. Dore Gold is being mentioned as most likely to replace Ben-Elissar, while Netanyahu's senior policy adviser David Bar-Ilan is mentioned as a candidate for UN ambassador.

Another name raised in circles close to the prime minister this week was former ambassador to the US Zalman Shoval, but it is not clear for which of the two openings he is being considered.

Shoval refused to comment, saying only that he did not want to talk about hypothetical things.

A senior Foreign Ministry source implied yesterday that Ben-Elissar would remain in his position, saying that it would be an insult to the US if the government switched its ambassador so quickly. He said that it would violate diplomatic etiquette to switch an ambassador who had served for less than a year.

Before Ben-Elissar's meeting with Netanyahu, Levy expressed support for him, and predicted he would remain in his position.

"I had a good talk with the ambassador in Washington last week. I don't think he'll be replaced. I hope he'll stay in office," Levy said.

Foreign Ministry Director-General Eytan Bentsur also expressed appreciation for Ben-Elissar's work.

Until yesterday, it was speculat-



Eliahu Ben-Elissar (Israel Sam)

delegate in Washington, in which case Gold would act as the real ambassador, cutting Ben-Elissar off completely.

"We will not allow this to happen. If they try to do that, Ben-Elissar will not let him [Gold] work," one source said.

Foreign ministry sources said Ben-Elissar did not have a chance at succeeding in his job from the start, since Netanyahu's senior advisers cut him off from all White House contacts and in many cases he was the last to hear of developments between Israel and the US.

Liav Collins adds:
Meretz leader Yossi Sarid described Ben-Elissar as "the wrong person in the wrong place at the wrong time."

He also said that "even the best ambassador cannot market bad and dangerous policies. Therefore not only should Ben-Elissar be replaced, but first of all - and more importantly - Binyamin Netanyahu should be replaced."

MK Ran Cohen (Meretz), chairman of the Knesset State Control Committee, has asked State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat to look into reports that a deal has been made to appoint a Geshet member to head Mifal Hapayis in return for a Likud appointment as ambassador in Washington.

"Making deals stemming from political or other vested interests means there is no chance that the best and most talented civil servants will be appointed," he said.

Moshe Arens also criticized Netanyahu in an interview on Channel 1.

"Making appointments is not the prime minister's strong card, to my great sorrow," Arens said. "This is not something marginal, in my opinion, but the most important characteristic that a leader needs - the ability to build a staff and appoint the right people, because nothing can be accomplished by only one man, not even by the prime minister."

Magen resigns as deputy finance minister

By SARAH HONG

Deputy Finance Minister David Magen (Geshet) resigned yesterday, making good his threat of three weeks ago. His most likely replacement is said to be MK Michael Kleiner.

At 12:20 p.m., Magen sent a terse letter to Finance Minister

Dan Meridor. The first sentence said that he was stepping down; the second and last sentence thanked Meridor for his cooperation. Magen did not repeat the acrimonious onslaught on Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu with which he first announced his decision to resign. Foreign Minister David

Levy at the time prevailed on him to wait and go through factional channels. But when the three weeks Magen allotted as a cooling-off period were over, he resigned.

Sources said that Magen will not be missed in the Finance Ministry, as his contribution there was negligible. This more than anything,

Geshet sources said, contributed to his growing sense of frustration.

Magen said yesterday that he is "sure my voice will be heard more as an ordinary MK. I could not speak out as a deputy minister, but I will say what is on my mind as an ordinary MK."

See MAGEN, Page 2

Eran to stay on in Amman

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

Ambassador to Jordan Oded Eran yesterday accepted Foreign Minister David Levy's request not to resign and is to return to Amman in two days.

Eran resigned last week, a mere four days after assuming the post, after not receiving advance notice of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's visit to Akaba for a meeting with King Hussein. He said he quit "to warn and to improve the functioning of the

embassy and the apparatus handling a sensitive matter such as our relations with Jordan."

Eran yesterday met Foreign Ministry Director-General Eytan Bentsur, who said afterwards that Eran agreed to stay in office after being assured he would be able to function effectively.

Eran said that "I raised issues which I thought important. Assuming that these issues have been settled, as I understood from the foreign minister and the director-general, I will agree to Levy's request."

'Witch of Jenin' fortune-teller remanded for fraud

By RAINE MARCUS

Known as the witch of Jenin, Zahariya Shahada, a fortune-teller and healer frequented by politicians

and celebrities, will be predicting the future of fellow inmates at the Abu Kabir lock-up for the next seven days. She was remanded on fraud charges by Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Shahada, also known as Umm Ammar, allegedly conned thousands of people out of their money by convincing them that she had supernatural and psychic powers and could exorcise the evil eye.

Shahada, a mother of 16, regaled her clients with the tale that she had been murdered by her husband, but was brought back to life by a woman from her village, who removed her from her grave.

Following her remand, she said, she had been granted powers to cure all human problems.

Police said Shahada worked countrywide, attracting celebrities and even IDF officers. After receiving

complaints, two police officers decided to check her supernatural powers out for themselves at an apartment in Tel Aviv she used. They told Shahada they were having marital problems and desperately needed her help. For NIS 5,200, she said, she could solve their problems.

She produced a few grains of rice, said Supt. David Materani, and told the couple to count them.

"Then she took some salt from a

piece of paper, played around with other pieces of paper, and suddenly produced a sweet, just like a magician," he said. This apparently was supposed to solve the couple's marital problems.

Shahada was arrested and appeared in front of Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court Judge Hayata Cohen yesterday morning.

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Knesset marks Arad's birthday

By LIAT COLLINS

A strong message went out from the Knesset yesterday: "Free Ron Arad." The message was picked up and echoed by members of the British and German parliaments who participated in a special satellite- and internet link-up with their Israeli counterparts for a conference marking the 39th birthday of the missing Israeli navigator who was captured in 1986.

The conference was the initiative of Coalition and Likud faction chairman Michael Eitan, who heads the sub-committee on communication and information. Among those who appeared in the satellite link-up was Britain's Derek Fatchett, minister of the State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, on the eve of a visit to the

Middle East.

He said he would bring up the subject during his visit to Syria next week "and make it very clear that the British government will be working hard for his release."

John Marshall, a Conservative MP until the recent elections, called Arad's captivity "the most scandalous abuse of human rights in the western world." He said Arad's release would further the peace process. Marshall noted that Arad has been missing as long as both world wars put together.

Conservative MP James Clappison said he would continue to take up Arad's cause with the new government.

Although the planned link with the German Bundestag did not work out, the speaker, Rita

Süssmuth, sent a message to Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon sympathizing with the campaign to free Arad.

Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky told the British MPs and viewers that he could personally identify with Arad from his experiences as a former Prisoner of Zion.

Communications Minister Limor Livnat spoke to Ron's mother, Batya Arad - "as one mother to another, who understands and shares your hope that you will wake up in the morning and find Ron at home."

Yosef Harari, who heads the Committee to Free Ron Arad, stressed the modern media event was not "celebrating but marking his birthday. We'll celebrate it with him when he returns."



Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon and Communications Minister Limor Livnat (center) join Ron Arad's mother, Batya Arad, at a Knesset ceremony yesterday in honor of the missing navigator's 39th birthday. (Chae Harari)

Jews in Iran have religious freedom, says ex-community leader

By STEVE RODAN

Iran's 25,000 Jews have been granted freedom of religion as well as limited travel rights by the Islamic regime in Teheran, according to former community head Parviz Nazarian.

Nazarian, who since 1979 has resided in Los Angeles, said in an interview with *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday that the Islamic republic allows synagogues and Jewish schools to operate. This is in contrast to the years of government persecution of the Jews that followed the 1978 overthrow of the Shah.

"The Jews have learned to live in Iran," said Nazarian, a former IDF soldier who heads a scholarship fund that has aided 400 Israelis.

"They don't feel under pressure. There are synagogues and schools. The regime doesn't interfere on issues of religion."

Nazarian, who himself would not dare to return to his home in Teheran, said Jews have possibilities of leaving Iran, although many appear ready to remain in the country. "It's a question of

price," he said. "Also there is an age factor. Many of the Jews in Iran today are elderly [and prefer to stay]."

The 67-year-old Nazarian, who helps run several companies based in the US, will today donate an endowment for a chair for the study of modern Iran at Tel Aviv University, the first such chair in Israel. He said his goal is to promote understanding of Iran in Israel in the hope that Teheran will one day reconcile itself with the Jewish state.

"You have to know the Iranians to make a deal," he said. "Iran under an ayatollah will not last long. Even today, under the ayatollah, the country is changing. There are intellectuals who are beginning to think they need the US and the West. The Iranians are not anti-Israel. They use such rhetoric for political reasons in the Arab world."

But Nazarian said he cannot explain the motive of Iran's programs to develop nuclear weapons and medium-range ballistic missiles capable of hitting Israel. "Even I as an Iranian lack the tools to understand Iran today," he said.

Gov't, ULA discuss new plan to end strike

By LIAT COLLINS

A meeting between the prime minister, finance minister and interior minister last night came up with a financial recommendation to end the local authorities strike, according to the Union of Local Authorities spokesman. He said the government had proposed giving the ULA NIS 80 million in each of the next four years and NIS 600m. in a year.

Earlier, Interior Minister Eli Suissa said he "identifies with the just struggle of the local authority heads," during yesterday's stormy Knesset Interior Committee discussion on the crisis. Committee chairman Sallah Tarif (Labor), at the outset of the meeting, strongly criticized Finance Minister Dan Meridor, who did not attend the discussion, although he later met with local authority heads in his own office.

"Part of the problem with the heavy deficit is the heavy demand the government places on the local authorities. I have stopped wandering among the local authorities because I am ashamed to look these people in the eyes when their water supply is cut off, there is no money to pay their workers' wages and I have nothing I can tell

them," Suissa said.

David Milgrom, head of the Finance Ministry's budget division, said the ministry is trying not to deviate from the budget and any additional funds for the local authorities would open up discussions among other bodies.

The committee decided to create a sub-committee with the Finance Committee to hold immediate discussions with the prime minister, finance minister and others in an attempt to solve the problem.

Maxim Levy (Gesher), former Lod mayor, blamed the government and said it is close-minded to the problem. Former finance minister Avraham Shohat (Labor) said the government had prepared the budget without serious thought "and most of the ministers raised their hands [to vote] without knowing what for."

Also earlier, ULA head Adi Eldar said the heads would not take down their protest tent outside the Prime Minister's Office. He said the finance minister is ignoring and belittling the council heads and does not take into account such problems as the fact that in some towns some 40 percent of the residents, mainly new immigrants, are exempt from paying municipal taxes.

Olmert takes stand in own defense

By RAINE MARCUS

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, on trial in Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court on charges of fraud and breach of trust, took the stand in his own defense yesterday.

He is charged with fraudulently trying to obtain government funds for the 1988 Likud election campaign - he was campaign treasurer - by declaring that contributions were coming from abroad. According to the prosecution, he failed to declare that he was getting illegal donations from corporations and gave false invoices stating that money was for advertising services.

Olmert testified that he had not been in charge of donations from Israeli companies, but that those responsible. Yona Peled and Menahem Atzmon, had been tried and convicted for the offenses he was on trial for.

"That year I was extremely busy," said Olmert. "I had no time to think about anything. I had to appear every evening at three or four places as part of our campaign."

According to Olmert, Atzmon was in charge of contributions to the party. "I trusted him and Peled implicitly," he added. After his testimony, Olmert told reporters that he had not committed any crime.

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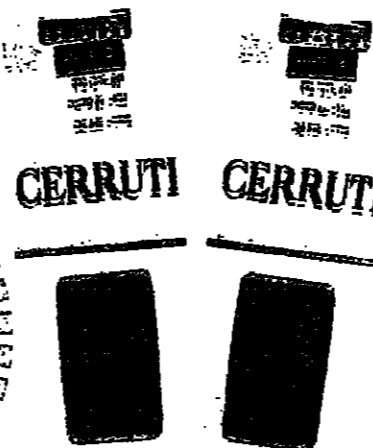
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Qatar won't cancel next Mideast economic summit

By DOUGLAS DAVIS

LONDON - Qatar this week rebuffed high-level appeals from Syria to dismantle its links with Israel and cancel the fourth annual Middle East and North Africa Economic Conference, scheduled to be held in Doha next November.

According to the Saudi-owned daily *al-Hayat*, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Shara lobbied Qatar to close Israel's trade office in Doha and refrain from hosting the conference in the absence of a "just and comprehensive peace."

Shara later traveled to Jeddah, where he joined Syrian Vice President Abdel Halim Khaddam for talks with Saudi Arabia's King Fahd as part of Syria's efforts to rally Arab support for its position in its deadlocked talks with Israel. In Doha, Shara delivered a verbal message from Syrian President Hafez Assad to the Qatari emir.

Sheikh Hamad bin-Khalifa Al Thani. *Al-Hayat* did not give details about the message but reported extensively on talks between Shara and his Qatari counterpart, Sheikh Hamad bin-Jassem bin-Jabr Al Thani.

It said Shara stressed the importance of a "unified and cohesive Arab position" in face of Prime Minister Netanyahu's "anti-peace policy," insisting that such a stand was the only way of "changing Netanyahu's expansionist mentality to a peaceful one that adheres to the land-for-peace principle and achieves international legitimacy."

In Doha Foreign Ministry spokesman Fawaz al-Atiyah confirmed that Qatar would host the economic forum as planned, but said it was premature to discuss whether Israel would be invited. There was, he added, ample time for "positive developments" that would put the peace talks back on track.

Attiyah stressed Qatar's support for Syria's demand that talks with Israel must resume at the point where they were suspended 15 months ago by the Labor-led government.

Attiyah said Qatar had frozen the activities of the Israeli trade office and all other links with Israel. In Jeddah, Shara and Khaddam delivered a message to Saudi King Fahd from Assad which a Syrian source said related to "obstacles affecting the peace process as a result of Netanyahu's intransigent policy, and ways of vitalizing the process by contacting some influential capitals, principally Washington, to pressure Tel Aviv and force it to resume the negotiations."

Washington is expected to provoke intense intra-Arab controversy by insisting that the Doha conference proceed as planned and that Israel be invited to send a top-level delegation to the event.



Betar Jerusalem players score for youth program

Soccer players from the national champions, Betar Jerusalem, take a break yesterday on the grass of Jerusalem's Teddy Stadium with a group of Arab and Jewish youth taking part in a one-day happening of the Rosh Pina Mainstreaming Network. The group integrates youngsters with developmental difficulties and their peers without disabilities for after-school activities.

(Karen Ben-Zion)

Former concentration camp guard to be deported from US

PHILADELPHIA (AP) - A retired baker who was a concentration camp guard for the Nazis will be deported for taking Jews and others on a death march to Auschwitz, US government prosecutors announced on Monday.

The deportation order for Nikolaus Schiffer, 78, came from Immigration Judge John Gossert Jr., who said he tormented prisoners at three concentration camps in Germany and Poland.

"Schiffer personally testified to his participation in a death march from Hersbruck to Auschwitz on which weakened prisoners were shot or left to die when they

could not continue," Gossert said Monday.

Schiffer, who admitted to being a guard but denied knowing of the atrocities within the camps, will be deported to Romania.

The telephone number at his home in New Ringgold, 60 miles northwest of Philadelphia, was unlisted and he could not be reached for comment.

Schiffer becomes the latest in a series of former Nazi camp guards to be ordered out of the country.

Ferdinand Hammer, 75, a retired foundry worker, was ordered in April to be deported to Croatia for covering up his past

as a guard at five concentration camps. He had lived in the US since 1955.

Also last month, a federal judge in Chicago revoked the US citizenship of Bronislaw Hajda, 73, saying the retired machinist lied when he denied participating in a massacre of hundreds of Jews at the Treblinka death camp. The Justice Department is seeking to have him deported.

Prosecutors said Schiffer joined the Romanian army when it was allied with Germany, and later served in the Waffen SS.

Schiffer was an armed guard on labor details in the Sachsenhausen and Hersbruck

concentration camps in Germany and the Majdanek camp and Trawniki SS training camp in Poland, the government charged.

He was stripped of his US citizenship in 1993 and ordered to leave the country by a federal judge, clearing the way for deportation proceedings.

Another Pennsylvania man, Jonas Stelmokas, 80, of Lansdowne, was stripped of his US citizenship in 1995 after prosecutors claimed he helped Nazis massacre thousands of Lithuanian Jews.

Stelmokas denied the charge and has fought attempts to have him deported.

Lag Ba'Omer to be marked Saturday night

By JUDY SIEGEL

Five days before Lag Ba'Omer, the area around the tomb of Rabbi Shimon Bar-Yohai is already full of families who have put up tents and are waiting for the festivities of Saturday night and Sunday. The people are believed to have come early because the holiday begins right after Shabbat and to get a good place closer to the tomb.

According to Magen David Adom, some 200,000 celebrants are expected on Mt. Meron, near Safed, on Lag Ba'Omer. MDA will provide first aid services from Friday at 10 a.m. until Sunday night. Four doctors and 60 medics, paramedics, and volunteers will be on duty at the site.

MDA urged parents to be present at all bonfires and to ensure that children are kept at a distance from the

fire. In case of burns, extinguish the fire and move the victim to a safe distance. Pull his head gently backwards to expand his airways. Cool the burn with water and cover it with sterile gauze. Call MDA.

Lag Ba'Omer (the 33rd day of the Omer, or 18 Iyar) marks a respite in the month-long period of mourning during which no weddings are performed or hair cut. It marks the halt of the plague killing of disciples of Rabbi Akiva during their participation in Bar Kochba's revolt against the Romans.

The Chief Rabbinate called on the public not to violate Shabbat in preparation for Lag Ba'Omer bonfires. The lighting of the central bonfire on the tomb at Meron has been postponed to noon Sunday to prevent Sabbath desecration, the rabbis said.

British lottery awards £279,155 to New Israel Fund

By DOUGLAS DAVIS

LONDON - Three Middle East-oriented groups are among the 130 British charities named yesterday to share a £25 million windfall from British lottery funds.

The largest award to a London-based Middle East charity went to the New Israel Fund, which was awarded £279,155 for a project to provide Beduin children in the Negev Desert with improved educational opportunities.

The Friends of the Spafford Children's Center of Jerusalem was awarded £97,500 to help Palestinian children overcome behavioral and learning difficulties. The Friends of Bir Zeit University received a grant of £211,407 "to improve the quality of life for the most disadvantaged groups within Palestinian society."

'It's brainwashing,' says an opponent of the 'teshuva' movement

By DAN IZENBERG

Dan Mahler is one of the most outspoken critics of the *teshuva* movement and a leader of *Ila*, the Association to Fight Haredi Domination.

Mahler, 63, a plastic surgeon and Ben-Gurion University professor, has little in common with the Fenso and Aviv families, who live in poor neighborhoods in Tel Aviv. He lives in a posh section of Ramat Aviv and - if one can judge by his professional credentials and the art and library in his home - belongs to the country's affluent elite.

Yet, like the Aviv and Fenso families, he also has a son who left the secular fold to become haredi. Although Mahler does not like to talk about it, he regards his son's decision as his personal loss, a loss which still rankles after 13 years. It presumably was a major

factor in his decision to become active in *Ila*.

Mahler acknowledged that there is a difference between the transformation of his son, who was 20 at the time, and the teenage boys of Rachel Fenso and Rina Aviv. It is the targeting of children so

Last in a five-part series

young that angers him so much. "The process of *teshuva* has nothing to do with gaining knowledge," said Mahler, quoting from an article written for *Ila's* newsletter by Tel Aviv University psychologist David Green. "What is involved is a rapid change in thinking without opportunity for the gradual development of opin-

ion, while denying the opportunity to hear criticism or conflicting evidence. *Hazara beshuva* is a drastic and rapid change from one philosophy to another, requiring a total and sweeping change in all customs and ways of life.

"The change demanded by the proponent of *teshuva* involves accepting a package deal, which includes assertions that there is a God, that the truth handed down by this God is the one and only truth, that there is no other truth, and that anything outside this package is a lie and an abomination. The lifestyle in this closed system obliges changes in eating habits, dress, language, attitudes to work, the state and its laws, and everyone outside the system."

According to Mahler, for the process to be successful, the *teshuva* must be isolated from all the influences of his old life - family, friends, society, and the state. "The nuclear family is the strongest foundation in the life of every child. The preacher must destroy this source of opposition to clear the way for the victim to be dragged to his intended goal," said Mahler.

"Converts are brainwashed into giving up their former lives. This is achieved by holding a series of lectures, while putting off rest, sleep, and food. The preaching can take several days. While the lecturers alternate, the audience stays in place. The lectures are interesting and the preachers charismatic."

Mahler compared the technique used by *teshuva* organizations to brainwashing methods first revealed in the West after the Korean War. He said scientific studies have proven that highly educated listeners can be persuaded by charismatic speakers, even when what they say is nonsense. He also argued that the *teshuva* movement has more of the cult-defining characteristics listed a

decade ago by a Knesset panel headed by MK Miriam Tasa-Glaser than any of the officially designated cults operating in Israel.

Ila wants to take rabbis who have persuaded minors to leave home to court on charges of violating the Custodian Law. Yosef Paritzky, a Tel Aviv lawyer, has volunteered his services. So far, however, no family has taken up that option.

One reason, Mahler says, is by the time parents might consider such action, it is too late. Parents wake up late to the process their children are undergoing, because of the residual guilt they feel for not being observant themselves, and because the preachers do not reveal their goal of making their children haredi until much later on.

In contrast to Mahler, Yosef Walis, director of Arachim, one of the biggest of the *teshuva* movements, flatly states that his organization's goal is "kiruv, that is, to bring people who feel far away from observing Torah and mitzvot closer to practicing mitzvot. People want to know and hear. They feel a vacuum. Then there is a higher intent. We want them to practice Judaism."

Walis, 50, is himself a *teshuva*. He said he had been a successful engineer and businessman and lived many years in the US. Dressed in a dark suit and sporting a white, cropped beard and white hair, Walis is articulate and worldly. He knows how to speak to secular Jews in a way that will not offend them. He is also totally dedicated to bringing them into the haredi fold.

"We believe that if the Jewish people live according to the Torah, as individuals and within the family, we will have a much better-functioning and healthier society," he said. "We believe this path was set down by the Creator. The Torah is a guide to life on all lev-

els. It was given by the Creator to the Chosen People."

An Arachim seminar 16 years ago convinced Walis that "there is a Creator of the Universe, that He handed down the commandments to the Jewish nation at Mt. Sinai and that those commandments are binding on Jews for all times."

"These three principles are vital to the Jewish people, but people are so ignorant. They learn nothing in the state secular education

system so they have no way of judging whether or not the Torah is true. Therefore, I decided to become active. Almost every *teshuva* has a sense of mission, because there is so much emptiness and ignorance. We must spread the message."

Walis stressed the rational and scientific aspects of the process of persuasion used by his organization. He focused on the seminars, in which entire families, properly

screened to weed out eccentrics and ensure a common intellectual base, are put up in a hotel for four or five consecutive days to hear lectures on all aspects of Judaism.

"The seminars are intended primarily for people on a high intellectual level," said Walis. "Usually, after the seminar, the families want to make a change, sometimes gradual, other times drastic."

See TESHUVA, Page 8

Our beloved
MONICA SINGER
 has left us before her time.
 The funeral will take place at Moshav Yanuv
 on Thursday, May 22, 1997 at 4:30 p.m.
 Ya'kov (Yack,) Darryl, Merle, Fred, Mike,
 Helain, Gidon and Grandchildren

Kibbutz Beit Rimon
 extends sincere condolences to its member
 Jack Wechsler and family
 on the death of his mother
MYRA WECHSLER ז"ל
 on Monday, May 19 (12 Iyar).
 Shiva in Hispin, Ramat Hagolan.

THE WEIZMANN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE
 deeply mourns the passing of
Prof LEO YAFFE
 of Canada
 a long-standing friend of the Institute
 and a member of its Board of Governors,
 and extends its sincere condolences to his family

A memorial gathering for
Prof. Kalman Yakov Mann ז"ל
 and a tribute to his contribution to Israel's health services
 will be held at his home,
 18 Rehov Eliezer Halevy, Kiryat Moshe, Jerusalem,
 on Thursday, May 22, 1997.
 3:00 p.m. Dr. Gideon Mann, moderator
 Prof. Shmuel Nissan
 3:30 p.m. Prof. Menashe Harel
 4:00 p.m. Prof. Jonathan Mann
 4:30 p.m. Uri Lupolianski - The Special Contribution of
 Professor Mann and His Influence on Community
 Health Care
 1:30 p.m. Gathering at the graveside, Sanhedria

5 Pianos
26 Pianists
260 Fingers

The Jerusalem Rubin Academy of Music and Dance.
 1947-1997

Festive Concert

Inaugurating the Hephzibah Menuhin Piano Chair
 Established through the generosity of Mr. Paul Morawetz.

Mozart	Concerto for Two Pianos and Orchestra in E flat Major K365
Bach	Concerto for Three Pianos and String Orchestra in D minor BWV 1063
Weber	"Invitation a La Valse" for Piano - 6 Hands
Lavignac	"Galop - Marche" for Piano - 8 Hands
Lutoslawski	Variations on a Theme of Paganini for Two Pianos
Schubert	"Marche Heroique" Op. 40 No. 2 and 3 for Two Pianos - 8 Hands
Liszt	Grand Galop "Chromatique" for Four Pianos - 16 Hands
Tchaikovsky	"Waltz of the Flowers" for Five Pianos - 10 Hands
De Falla	"Fire Dance" for Five Pianos - 20 Hands

The Israel Camerata, Jerusalem
 Conductor, Avner Biron

Monday 26.5.97 8:30 pm Sherover Hall, Jerusalem Theater
 Tickets: Tel. 02-6759904, Jerusalem Theater Tel. 02-5610011

BUSINESS

in brief

Low-tech investment aid requests down

The number of investment aid requests received by the Industry and Trade Ministry from overseas low-tech companies from January - May were down 40 percent from the same period last year, David Baruch, director of the ministry's Investment Center, said yesterday.

Meridor plans compulsory car insurance bill

Finance Minister Dan Meridor, in liaison with Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy and Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, will introduce legislation in the coming weeks to open the compulsory motor vehicle insurance market to "supervised competition."

Sharansky to US next week

Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky is expected to leave next week for a seven-day visit to the US, the ministry spokesman said yesterday.

NIS 4m. for Kiryat Arba technology park

The Industry and Trade Ministry yesterday announced the allocation of NIS 4 million for a technology park in Kiryat Arba. The investment will go toward the establishment of factories to house Maycom-1 and SFM, two high-tech companies that came out of the ministry's incubator program.

DSP faces class-action suit

DSP Communications, Inc., a California-based maker of wireless personal communications products which is part owned by Israelis, said four shareholders filed a class action suit against it.

COMPANY RESULTS

First International Bank net up 21%

First International Bank of Israel yesterday reported a 21-percent increase in first-quarter net income to NIS 46 million from NIS 38m. in the same period last year.

Cial Electronics profit sharply down

Cial Electronics Industries Ltd. yesterday reported an 87% drop in first-quarter earnings to NIS 11.86m. from NIS 93.92m. in the same period last year.

TESHUVA

Continued from Page 4

Families undergoing the process are given counselling to help each member adjust to the changes, he continued. In cases where the children are the ones influenced by the seminar, the counselors make sure they do not leave home and teach them how to behave so as not to offend their parents.

It all sounds idyllic. But Walis admits that Arachim's approach in slum neighborhoods is different. Rabbi Ya'acov Ohayon, who told a Bat Yam audience that secular Jews

Leumi hopes for \$150m. in share offer next week

By FELICE MARANZ / Bloomberg and Jerusalem Post Staff

The government hopes to raise \$150 million in Bank Leumi's 14 percent share offer next Tuesday, said Meir Yaacobson, head of MI Holdings, the state company which administers the sale of the government's stakes in the banking industry.

Foreign institutional investors have already committed themselves to \$120m. and Israeli underwriters have committed to \$30m., said Yaacobson, who added that half of the offering will be as shares and half as options.

The foreign investors' commitments are some 20% higher than

the bank's original expectations.

The government holds 82% of Bank Leumi, the country's second-largest bank, with \$39.6 billion in assets.

"We're in the middle of the process, having passed the first stage," said Yaacobson. "We'll see what happens next week."

Institutional investors have committed to a price of NIS 5 per share, he said, below today's price.

Bank Leumi's shares closed down 2% at NIS 5.30 amid reports institutional investors had paid a lower price for their shares.

Last month, the government sold shares and options in Israel Discount Bank, the country's

third-largest bank, raising NIS 212m. The amount raised exceeded the original anticipated total of NIS 156m.

Israel Discount Bank's shares in Tel Aviv fell 0.75% to close at NIS 3.59.

The Israel Discount Bank sale followed the government's sale of 17% of Israel Chemicals Ltd. for NIS 666.9m. in March.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said the government intends to raise NIS 4b. from sales of state assets in 1997, particularly from sales of banks.

The government is trying to sell a controlling interest in Bank Hapoalim, the country's biggest bank, through a tender. It also

intends to offer shares in United Mizrahi Bank.

Last week Bank Leumi transferred the government a dividend of NIS 532m., 35% of which reflected the bank's net income for the previous year.

The remainder stemmed from the bank's recent sales of its stakes in the Africa Israel holding company to entrepreneur Lev Levyev, and the Migdal insurance company to Italian insurer Generali.

Both deals were done in line with the requirements of the revised Banking Law, which is aimed at reducing and capping the banks' non-banking holdings.

MKs, Treasury clash over property tax

By DAVID HARRIS

The Treasury is opposed to the abolition of the annual property tax and its replacement by a one-time business sales tax. State Revenue Administration head Tsipi Galyam told the Knesset Finance Committee yesterday during a pitched debate with its members, most of whom disagreed with her.

Proposals put forward by the Gabbai committee at the request of outgoing deputy Finance Minister David Magen received the backing of the majority of MKs present at yesterday's debate.

"No one is in favor of the status quo," said Pini Badash (Likud). "If they were, then why did the Treasury set up the committee in the first place?"

No decision was taken during the session, but it became clear there are major differences of opinion between the Finance Ministry and members of the Gabbai Committee, according to Haim Oron (Meretz).

The major proposal of the Gabbai Committee, headed by former state budget director Yoram Gabbai, is to reform the existing 2.5-percent property tax from which many people have exemptions. While the committee examined the possibility of lowering the percentage of the tax and broadening the base, it decided that abolishing it is the only solution and a sales tax would be the most suitable alternative.

During the debate Galyam and senior Income Tax Commission officials raised two objections to the proposed new tax. Estimates from the Gabbai Committee show there would be a NIS 150 million shortfall between the NIS 954m. currently collected and the anticipated revenues from the business sales tax. They also said there will be problems collecting the new tax, and receipts could amount to less than NIS 500m.

This argument was dismissed by Knesset tax sub-committee chairman Ophir Pines (Labor), who said the one-time collection of the levy would be far easier to implement than the current annual payment has proved to be.

The committee was told the ongoing overall shortfall in property tax payments now stands at NIS 5 billion, according to Badash.

Calling for the debate to be put on hold while the Treasury discusses the report, Galyam said she favors maintaining the existing tax, lowering the percentage payable and widening its taxable value base.

Silvan Shalom, the Likud faction leader in the finance committee, said he supports the abolition of the current tax but suggested its proposed replacement is "impractical."

Pines argued it is clear the majority of MKs concerned and the wider community are in favor of abolishing the tax. He warned the Treasury that if it does not act to implement the Gabbai recommendations, he and several other MKs are willing to introduce the legislation themselves. "I am sure we'll have a majority in the house," he said.

While refusing to say he is disappointed by the Treasury's stance, Gabbai said he is convinced that in a matter of months either the government or MKs will begin the legislative process.

Correction

Crystal Systems Solutions Ltd. reported first-quarter net profits of \$386,000, compared to a net loss of \$239,000 in the same period last year, and not as reported.



Yen rebounds against dollar

A British businessman in Tokyo counts his Japanese yen exchanged from US dollars at a hotel yesterday. The US currency broke below 112 yen in Tokyo before bouncing back somewhat in later trading.

Toys 'R Us: Standards Institute obstructs free market

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Toys 'R Us has asked the Industry and Trade Ministry to investigate the Israel Standards Institute's regulations regarding children's products, the US toy retailer's local franchisee, Leon Koffler, said yesterday.

According to Koffler, the ISI, which approves all products before they are sold locally, protects local manufacturers by implementing strict regulations designed to keep foreign products out.

Toys 'R Us (Israel) director-general Yossi Hod cited the regulations regarding strollers and baby cribs as particularly stringent.

"The Israeli standard for baby cribs is so particular that no bed in the world can meet the standard, not even in Germany, where child-safety awareness is very high," Hod said.

Michaela Orren, head of the ISI's standardization division, said the rules are in no way designed to obstruct Israel's free market.

The ISI, she said, must sometimes choose between the European standard at the expense of the American one, and vice versa, depending on which standards will allow the most number of exporters and importers to enter a given market.

"If all the manufacturers by European production machines and the imports and exports are coming to and from Europe, there is no

sense in adopting the US standard," said Orren, adding that the adoption of both standards would necessitate two types of testing equipment for all products.

Koffler, however, argues that as long as an importer can prove a product has met either the US or European standards, it should not need to be tested again.

Last Thursday, Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky discussed the matter with Koffler, who is also the local franchisee of Blockbuster Video and Office Depot and the owner of Super Pharm. Sharansky advised Koffler to put his suggestions before the ISI, a ministry spokesman said.

Correction

"It's a total system," he said. "Haredi welfare organizations provide the *hazer beshuva* with subsidized food and clothing. He pays NIS 200 per month for day care for his child, instead of NIS 1,000 in the secular world. Transportation is thrown in for free. He enrolls in a yeshiva, for which he receives an extra NIS 600 per month, without giving up his job or welfare payments. And don't forget, most of the poor people in Israel are Sephardim and the Sephardim are traditional. They come already equipped with a natural affinity for religion."

This concludes a five-part investigative series on the *hazer beshuva* movement in Israel's poor neighborhoods.

"A fax for you" advertisement for Israel Discount Bank, featuring a fax machine and the text "All you want to know about your accounts, on your fax, within 15 minutes."

Advertisement for Internet Post Classifieds, featuring the text "DON'T BE LEFT OUT! If you don't have e-mail or even a computer you can still advertise!" and "INTERNET POST CLASSIFIEDS Reach all of Israel and the world for just: \$13 US Dollars/NIS 45".

Advertisement for the Hebrew-English Visual Dictionary, featuring the text "EVERYTHING THAT MEETS THE EYE FROM A-Z" and "The Hebrew-English Visual Dictionary is an invaluable reference source containing thousands of carefully chosen illustrations and clearly identified terminology."

Table of Israel Money Markets, including exchange rates for Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) and Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates (20.5/97).

ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK

Table listing Israeli shares in New York with columns for share name, last price, and change. Includes AMEX and NASDAQ sections.

Table listing various Israeli companies with columns for company name, last price, and change.

Table listing international companies with columns for company name, last price, and change.

MISHTANIM LEADING 100 TASE ISSUES

Table listing the top 100 Tase issues with columns for share name, last price, and change.

Table listing various international companies with columns for company name, last price, and change.

Table listing various international companies with columns for company name, last price, and change.

INTERNATIONAL SHARES

Large table listing international shares with columns for share name, last price, and change.

Large table listing international shares with columns for share name, last price, and change.

Large table listing international shares with columns for share name, last price, and change.

TASE ROUNDUP

Stock indexes in Tel Aviv rose yesterday as First International earnings increased 21 percent and as investors hoped the central bank would cut interest rates.

The report from Israel's fifth-largest bank was "very good," said Ronen Cohen, head of trading at the Tel Aviv office of Oscar Gruss & Sons.

Rising stocks also included Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd., up 1.25% to 197.22.

Cohen at Oscar Gruss & Sons said he expects central bank Governor Jacob Frenkel to leave the benchmark interest rate at 13.9%.

At the same time, "there's a lot of pressure on him" to cut rates "because the last consumer price index was very low," he said.

The April CPI showed a lower-than-expected rise of 0.7%.

Frenkel cut rates, he'll pare 0.25 percentage points, Cohen added.

(Bloomberg)

Hope over rate cuts boosts shares

Mishtanim 265.34 ▲ 0.49% Maof 273.54 ▲ 0.70%

By ROBERT DANIEL

Stock indexes in Tel Aviv rose yesterday as First International earnings increased 21 percent and as investors hoped the central bank would cut interest rates.

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Frenkel cut rates, he'll pare 0.25 percentage points, Cohen added.

(Bloomberg)

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

Euro markets lower on fear over US rates

LONDON (Reuters) - European markets ended trade yesterday showing big losses for the dollar and stocks but with their attention firmly riveted on a meeting of US central bankers who are deciding interest rates.

All eyes were focused on the US Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting, and markets were almost evenly split on the prospects of a 25-basis-point interest rate rise in the power-house US economy.

Shares in London, Paris, Frankfurt and Wall Street were all showing losses of about one percent in the countdown to the rates decision, with investors fretting that higher rates would hit profit margins.

At the same time, the dollar struggled to regain its poise after dropping to a five-month low of 111.96 yen, fighting uncertainty over US interest rate policy and speculation about higher Japanese rates.

Traders said that at the moment, the mood seemed to be one of cashing in on any signs of dollar recovery.

In a volatile trading session on foreign exchanges, dealers began the day by unloading dollars because of worries that Japan might increase rates, making dollar-denominated assets less attractive to investors.

They drove the dollar down by nearly four yen after reports that a committee of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) was considering asking for higher discount rates from the Bank of Japan.

But the currency later bounced back by nearly two yen and stood about 113 yen in late afternoon trade after Japanese officials warned the yen's rise had been too rapid and a Japanese rate rise was not likely soon.

(Reuters)

Stocks soar as Fed keeps interest rates unchanged

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Blue-chip stocks jumped yesterday, lifting the Dow Jones industrial average within a few points of a record close as Wall Street welcomed the Federal Reserve's decision to keep interest rates unchanged.

The Dow rose 74.58 points, or 1.03 percent, to 7,303.46, which was just short of last Thursday's record finish of 7,333.55.

(Reuters)

WHERE TO GO

Notices in this feature are charged at NIS 28.00 per line, including VAT. Insertion every day of the month costs NIS 520.00 per line, including VAT, per month.

JERUSALEM HERBREW UNIVERSITY. Tours of the Mount Scopus campus, in English, daily Sun-Thurs., 11 a.m. from Bronim Reception Center, Sherman Administration Bldg., Bussas 4a, 9, 23, 25, 28. For more info call 5882819. HADASSAH. Visit the Hadassah Institute, Chagall Wing, Tel. 02-6418333, 02-6776271.

TEL AVIV HAIFA'S ONE IN HAIFA, dial 04-8374253.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

Medical help for tourists (in English) 177-022-9110. The National Poison Control Center at Rambam Hospital 04-832-9205, 24 hours a day, for information in case of poisoning. Eran - Emotional First Aid - 1201, also Jerusalem 561-0303, Tel Aviv 546-1111 (children/young 546-0736). Herzliya (Phish), 052-5472, 855-8407. Open 9 a.m. to midnight. Upper Nazareth: Clal Pharmacy, Lev Hair Mart, 657-0468. Open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd. Futures, Options, Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds. 34 Ben Yehuda St., Jerusalem. Tel. 02-624-4963. Fax 02-624-4962.

Tel Aviv shares data supplied by Pacific Mediterranean Investments, Tel. 09-958-5873. All other data supplied by CommStock Trading Ltd., Tel. 02-624-4963. Due to technical failures data may be inaccurate. The Jerusalem Post will not be held responsible for the consequences of any transaction made on the basis of these data.

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PAC MED INVESTMENTS

DUTY HOSPITALS. Jerusalem: Hadassah Ein Kerem (internal, obstetrics, ENT); Hadassah Mt. Scopus (surgery, orthopedics); Bliker Holim (pediatrics); Shaare Zedek (ophthalmology). Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (surgery). Netanya: Lantado.

Driving test scam 'a national problem'

Top Transport Ministry official pledges crackdown on illegal drivers

By DAVID HARRIS

The driving instructors and examiners corruption scandal is not restricted to the North, but affects the whole country. Transport Ministry Director-General Nahum Langental told the Knesset Economics committee yesterday.

Langental pledged his ministry would find and deal with the thousands of drivers who did not legitimately pass their tests. "If the current law is not sufficient I will recommend to Transport Minister [Yitzhak Levy] the introduction of new legislation."

In January, the police Northern District launched an investigation, and on Sunday arrested 13 examiners and five instructors for allegedly taking bribes in exchange for allowing driving students to pass without taking the required 28-lesson minimum or achieving the required driving standard. More arrests are expected, according to Dep-

Cmdr. Yitzhak Bashan, who is leading the inquiry. "In my opinion, this is one of the most serious criminal occurrences in the history of the State of Israel," said committee chairman Eli Goldschmidt (Labor). "With 600 killed on the roads every year and thousands injured we are always asking what we can do, yet here we find people who don't know how to drive being allowed on the road and as such are potential killers."

There is already initial evidence that these drivers are more likely to be involved in accidents. "There is a clear link between those holding these licenses and the number of accidents in the North," said Bashan, who described the evidence as irrefutable.

Asked by whether the scandal has affected every driving school and test center in the North, Bashan replied, "Everyone who had to know, knew."

Findings of the police investigation include:

- Despite the legal requirement of 28 lessons, and students having to sign a form to confirm they have

taken this number, many have taken far fewer than this, even as few as five.

- On many occasions students passed their tests despite the examiner having applied the brakes on several occasions during the exam.
- When questioned many of these students knew little or nothing of driving theory.
- Usually where two students were examined together, one would always pass. The examiner would be told in advance which of the two to pass.
- The scam was initially started in late 1990 or 1991 by one or two people. This figure increased over the years, to the extent the police do not know how many people were involved, claiming many have already retired.
- There are now thousands of drivers on the roads who passed their tests in the North by means of these irregularities.
- "There was an administrative failure," admitted National Examiners chairman David Ben-Shabbat.

"This is not just a case of corruption, but people's lives we're talking about."

When asked by Goldschmidt if he had heard any rumors of the scandal, Ben-Shabbat said he had not. However, National Organization of Driving Instructors in Israel Shlomo Josefberg admitted to hearing of the events, but also of passing the information on to the appropriate authorities. He also used the opportunity to roundly condemn the practice.

Attention now turns to those driving on the licenses obtained through this mechanism. "Revoke their licenses immediately," recommended MK Moshe Gafni (United Torah Judaism).

Langental said the correct legal channels must be used. He and others also called for a change in the system that has allowed students to take fewer lessons. "Twenty-eight is only the minimum," he said. "If a student needs 50 or 130 lessons, so be it."

WEATHER Golan 10-21

Haifa 17-24	Tiberias 15-30
Afula 14-28	Samarra 14-24
Tel Aviv 15-24	Jerusalem 12-25
Beer Sheva 14-28	Dead Sea 23-35
Eilat 22-38	

Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear.

Kasparov: Deep Blue had unfair advantage

By URIEL HEILMAN

World chess champion Garry Kasparov yesterday expressed his lack of confidence in the IBM team that created the computer Deep Blue - the machine which defeated him in a recent chess match some engineers have hailed as the beginning of the Information Age.

Speaking at a press conference at the Tel Aviv Hilton shortly after his arrival in the country to promote the opening of a new chess academy in Tel Aviv, he said the computer team had created a "hostile atmosphere."

It had done this, he said, by approaching the match as an adversarial event rather than a scientific experiment in greater understanding of artificial intelligence. Kasparov also criticized the reluctance of the IBM team to release a print-out of Deep Blue's "thinking process" after the match.

Just as an athlete must go through drug tests after an outstanding performance, he said, Deep Blue should have gone through tests after the match to ensure that engineers did not help the computer during the contest.

"We must separate science and sports," said Kasparov, explaining that the machine had several unfair advantages. "The computer doesn't care about psychological pressure like the air conditioning or noise in the hall," he said, adding that unlike its human opponent, Deep Blue does not tire or get frustrated. "I played a strong opponent with no previous knowledge of it," he continued.

"I would like to leave my prob-



Garry Kasparov (right) gives Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo a few hints during a press conference in Tel Aviv yesterday. (Ilan Ossendryver/Israel Sun)

lems behind and look forward to the next match, which IBM owes to mankind, which I didn't represent very well at the last match," said Kasparov.

He insisted that to ensure the fairness of a future match, games should be limited to one per day. Kasparov should be supplied with records of games the computer

played in the lab, and Deep Blue's thinking process should be released at the end of the match to guard against foul play.

The new chess academy Kasparov has come to promote will be dedicated tomorrow at 5 p.m. It aims to educate youngsters in chess, create a program for including chess in educational curricula

around the world, train chess instructors, and support the proliferation of chess playing and chess studies around the world. The Ramat Aviv academy will also house a regular library.

Funding for the academy has come from Sol Mark, who does not know how to play chess, and the Tel Aviv Municipality. Mark said he

hopes the academy will help keep kids off the street, serve as an alternative sport for the handicapped, who cannot compete in other games, and raise the level of Israeli chess.

Kasparov said he plans to visit the academy, which he hopes will become the world's leading chess entity, three or four times a year.

Number of skin cancer deaths falling

By JUDY SIEGEL

By the year 2000, one in 78 people will develop the potentially fatal kind of skin cancer, melanoma, and one in five will have a non-melanoma type of skin cancer. But the good news is that the number of deaths from skin cancer is declining due to earlier diagnosis.

The Israel Cancer Association announced yesterday that free skin cancer checks will be offered today and Thursday at 120 clinics around the country. The skin cancer awareness program is being held in cooperation with the health funds, the Israel Dermatology and Plastic Surgery Societies and the Health Ministry. For the clinic closest to you, call the ICA at 03-571-7888.

According to ICA officials, 600 new cases of melanoma were discovered in Israel last year, compared to an average of 300 during each of the years between 1980 and 1985 and 400 each between 1990 and 1994. But due to increased awareness, nearly half are diagnosed during the early stages when survival is most likely, compared to only a little over a quarter in the early Eighties.

By far the most improvement has been in Tel Aviv, where for every late-stage diagnosis of melanoma, the cancer is caught early for eight people. In Jerusalem, there are the fewest number of melanoma cases due to the covered-up religious population of Jews and Arabs. But if they contract melanoma, their awareness of the need to go for early detection is less pronounced because of reduced exposure to the news media. Since CIS immigrants tend to have pale, sensitive skin and are not used to sunny weather, the ICA issues informational material in Russian.

At the earliest stages, when the tumor is small and before the cancer penetrates beyond the skin, 90 percent of all melanomas can be cured.

It used to appear in 30% more women than men, but the figures are beginning to balance out, with women now having 20% more. The ICA's explanation is that women are now more aware of the dangers of sun exposure and take more care to protect themselves with hats, long-sleeved, light clothing, sunscreens and sunglasses. Parents are urged to be especially care to protect children, as one or two serious sunburns at this age can cause melanoma in adulthood.

For the first time, the Health Ministry's Cancer Registry has released figures on the number of basal cell carcinoma cases. The most common of skin cancers, its incidence is growing, and some 7,500 new cases are diagnosed each year. Fortunately, it is not often fatal, but removing the tumor can cause serious esthetic harm and suffering.

Meanwhile, Dr. Dov Stamper, a dermatologist at Assaf Harofeh Hospital, declared that "sunbathing is not healthful, but if one insists on doing it, do so only before 10 a.m. and after 4 p.m., when the ultraviolet rays are less intense." He advised always putting on UV-protective sunscreen before leaving the house and several times a day if the heat causes heavy perspiration.

AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH	
	C	C	
Amsterdam	14	24	cloudy
Buenos Aires	17	23	rain
Cardo	17	23	clear
Chicago	04	19	partly
Copenhagen	05	16	rain
Frankfurt	05	16	clear
Geneva	05	16	rain
Helsinki	05	16	clear
Hong Kong	25	29	cloudy
London	04	15	cloudy
Los Angeles	11	22	partly
Madrid	11	22	rain
Moscow	03	16	partly
Montreal	03	16	cloudy
New York	14	20	clear
Paris	12	18	rain
Rome	13	23	partly
Sydney	12	20	clear
Tokyo	15	21	cloudy
Toronto	05	17	partly
Warsaw	15	20	clear

Winning cards and numbers

In yesterday's daily Chance drawings, the winning cards were the 7 of spades, queen of hearts, queen of diamonds, and ace of clubs; and the 8 of spades, ace of hearts, king of diamonds, and king of clubs.

In yesterday's weekly Lotto draw, the winning numbers were 3, 7, 16, 25, 38 and 39 and the additional number was 14.

French top general arrives for 2-day visit

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

French Chief of Staff Gen. Jean-Philippe Douin arrives today for an official two-day visit as guest of Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak. The visit comes three months after the visit by French Defense Minister Charles Millon and amid efforts to revive sales of military equipment between the two countries.

Douin is to be received tomorrow at Camp Rabin in Tel Aviv by an official honor guard, after which he is to meet with Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai. The top French general is also scheduled to visit the Northern and Central commands and be briefed on Israel's security situation.

Shahak visited France last September and Douin's visit is part of a reciprocal visit among top brass of both countries. Last year, Israel for the first time opened a pavilion at the Eurosatory armament exhibition which presented products from 11 defense-related industries. Next month, 19 civilian and military companies will be presenting their wares at the 47th Paris air show.

While French military sources are skeptical that their country will be able to dent the strong procurement links Israel has with the United States, some headway was made during Millon's visit.

There are no joint French-Israeli training exercises and neither country appears eager for them to take place. France also does not use Israeli air space for training as the Americans do, and are doing this week in the Negev.

France is the world's third-largest defense exporter, with \$4 billion in annual sales, but military trade with Israel is just \$60 million.

Douin is also to meet with President Ezer Weizman, and visit Yad Vashem and Yitzhak Rabin's gravesite.

Israeli sues TWA for \$6.5m. after being pulled off flight

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK - The Israeli owner of a Manhattan jazz club, fuming that he was too late to visit with his dying father in Tel Aviv, is suing TWA for \$6.5 million, after his arrest following his questioning TWA's no-smoking rule.

Reuven Barzilai, who owns Arthur's jazz club in Greenwich Village, was en route to see his father, Shaye, in Petah Tikva's Rabin Medical Center-Bellinson Campus on January 22. He was hauled off his TWA flight and arrested at Kennedy Airport after complaining to TWA flight personnel about an unexpected ban on smoking for the flight, according to

accounts in New York newspapers. He was charged with criminal trespass and disorderly conduct. But Barzilai, 49, said that he was calm and that his only crime was to question the sudden change in smoking policy for the flight.

"I didn't raise my voice," he said. He spent a night in jail before a local judge

dismissed the charges. When Barzilai arrived in Tel Aviv three days later, his father was comatose and unable to speak, according to Barzilai's court papers. Shaye Barzilai died on January 29.

The suit seeks damages for false imprisonment, slander and mental and physical injuries.

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